(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for providing STD facilities to 21 towns of Maharashtra State during the 7th Plan period.

Nanded telephones

711. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposal under consideration of Government to introduce new technology in telecommunication system of the country;

(b) by when telephones will start working efficiently;

(c) the progress made in the construction of Max. II building (Telephone Building) in Nanded Town of Maharashtra State;

(d) whether it is a fact that two Union Ministers laid the foundation stone of the building;

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of accommodation new telephone connections are held up in Nanded City of Maharashtra State; and

(f) what steps Government intend to take for the improvement in telephone net work of Nanded City?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) For medium capacity exchanges digital electronic equipments are planned to be introduced progressively. The possibilities are being explored to introduce this technology by local manufacturing either through collaboration or with indigenous knowhow. This will modernise the local telephone service. Efforts are made to keep the telephones working efficiently.

(c) Construction of MAX-I (not MAX-II) type of building in Nanded is held up due to a court case.

(d) Union Home Minister and the then Communication Minister were present during foundation stone laying ceremony.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Efforts are being made to get the stay order vacated. A 2500 line exchange is planned to increase the capacity of telephone net work.

New co-axial line between Aurangabad and Hyderabad

712. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in laying out new co-axial lines between Aurangabad and Hyderabad;

(b) how many cities would be benefited by having STD lines on this new Project; and

(c) whether Nizamabad, Nanded, Parbani Jalna would get STD lines soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A coaxial cable system in the range 2.6 MHZ (capacity 600 channel) is planned from Aurangabad to Nanded only. There is at present no plan to have link between Nanded and Nizamabad. From Nizamabad to Hyderabad coaxial cable link is existing.

For Aurangabad-Nanded section, the laying of coaxial cable is completed. Repeaters and some MUX equipments have been received but line terminal equipment have been targetted to be supplied by M/s. I.T.I. in the year 1986-87.

(b) Jalna, Parbhani and Nanded.

(c) Nizamabad is a District Headquarter in Andhra Pradesh and Nanded. Parbhani and Jalna are the District Headquarters of Maharashtra.